

What is claimed is:

1. A curled decorative grass for use as a packing material, an animal bedding, cat litter, mulch for soil and as a media for plants, the curled decorative grass produced by a method comprising the steps of:

providing a substantially flat sheet of material capable of having a curl imparted thereto;

drawing the substantially flat sheet of material over at least one curl bar so as to produce a curled sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material being maintained under tension while drawn over the at least one curl bar to ensure proper angular disposition of the substantially flat sheet of material over the at least one curl bar;

slitting the curled sheet of material to provide a slit curled sheet of material containing a plurality of curled, side-by-side strips of material wherein each of the plurality of curled, side-by-side strips of material has a predetermined width; and

cutting the slit curled sheet of material to provide curled decorative grass having a substantially clock spring configuration, wherein the curled decorative grass has a multi-sided cross section, a length and a width.

2. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of slitting the curled sheet of material, the curled sheet of material is maintained under tension while slitting the curled sheet of material.

3. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
passing the slit curled sheet of material through a restraining assembly
prior to cutting the slit curled sheet of material so as to maintain
the slit curled sheet of material in a substantially planar or flattened
condition, thereby enhancing uniformity of the curled decorative
grass.

4. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of drawing the substantially flat sheet of material over at least one curl bar, the at least one curl bar is provided with a curling edge over which the sheet of material is drawn to form the curled sheet of material and wherein the curling edge of the at least one curl bar is disposed at an angle of from about 15 degrees to about 180 degrees relative to the substantially flat sheet of material.

5. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of drawing the substantially flat sheet of material over at least one curl bar, the substantially

flat sheet of material is drawn over a plurality of spatially disposed curl bars to form the curled sheet of material.

6. The curled decorative grass of claim 5 wherein each of the curl bars is provided with a curling edge over which the substantially flat sheet of material is drawn so as to impart the curl to the substantially flat sheet of material and form the curled sheet of material, and wherein the curling edge of each of the curl bars is disposed at an angle of from about 15 degrees to about 180 degrees relative to the substantially flat sheet of material.

7. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a substantially flat sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material is selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, laminated polymeric film, wax paper, paper having a shape-sustaining agent applied to at least one side thereof and paper having a lacquer applied to at least one side thereof.

8. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a substantially flat sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material is provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof such

that at least a substantial portion of the curled decorative grass formed therefrom contains at least a portion of the printed pattern.

9. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a substantially flat sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material is provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof such that at least a substantial portion of the curled decorative grass formed therefrom contains at least a portion of the embossed pattern.

10. The curled decorative grass of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a substantially flat sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material is provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof and an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof such that at least a substantial portion of the curled decorative grass formed therefrom contains at least a portion of the printed pattern and at least a portion of the embossed pattern.

11. The curled decorative grass of claim 10 wherein the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are in register with one another.

12. The curled decorative grass of claim 10 wherein the printed pattern and the embossed pattern are out of register with one another.

13. A curled decorative grass for use as a packing material, an animal bedding, cat litter, mulch for soil and as a media for plants, the curled decorative grass produced by a method comprising the steps of:

providing a substantially flat sheet of material capable of having a curl imparted thereto;

drawing the substantially flat sheet of material over at least one curl bar so as to form a curled sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material being maintained under tension while drawn over the at least one curl bar to ensure proper angular disposition of the substantially flat sheet of material over the at least one curl bar;

oscillating the curled sheet of material in a lateral direction relative to the direction of travel of the curled sheet of material;

slitting the oscillating curled sheet of material to provide a slit curled sheet of material containing a plurality of curled, side-by-side strips of material wherein each of the plurality of curled, side-by-side strips of material has a predetermined width; and

cutting the slit curled sheet of material to provide curled decorative grass having a substantially compression-tension spring configuration,

wherein the curled decorative grass has a multi-sided cross section,
a length and a width.

14. The curled decorative grass of claim 13 wherein, in the step of slitting the curled sheet of material, the curled sheet of material is maintained under tension while slitting the curled sheet of material.

15. The curled decorative grass of claim 14 further comprising:

passing the oscillating slit curled sheet of material through a restraining assembly prior to cutting the slit curled sheet of material so as to maintain the slit curled sheet of material in a substantially planar or flattened condition, thereby enhancing uniformity of the curled decorative grass.

16. The curled decorative grass of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing a substantially flat sheet of material, the substantially flat sheet of material is selected from the group consisting of paper, polymeric film, laminated polymeric film, wax paper, paper having a shape-sustaining agent applied to at least one side thereof and paper having a lacquer applied to at least one side thereof.